THE

British VISIONS:

OR,

ISAAC BICKERSTAFF's

TWELVE

PROPHECIES

FOR THE

YEAR 1711.

THE PREFACE.

IN the Year 1711, Isaac Bickerstaff, *Esq; the Prophet, who formerly Prophesied and Foretold you so many Remarkable Things,* viz. *in the Year* 1707; *all which, as is well known, are most exactly come to pass; and having by my Knowledge and Acquaintance for above One Hundred Years with the Stars, and with utmost diligence applyed my self to know by the aspects of Heavenly Bodies and other Methods; also what shall happen on the Earth. I say, that I the aforesaid* Isaac Bickerstaff, *Esq; am moved, as well by Astrological Vision, as the especial* Genius *of those Powers, which influences human Bodies to make known to the World what shall come to pass.*

By this Prophetick Skill, I once amongst other well known Events Predicted and Foretold you, That John Partridge *the Almanack-maker should die, and be Buried on, or before such a day of the Month, which as you all know came to pass to a Moment.*

Having therefore obtained such an undoubted Skill and Judgment in these most useful and advantageous Things: I cannot longer refrain from letting my Country-Men of this Nation know the

great Revolutions of Kingdoms and States, and the dreadful Things that shall suddenly come to pass in the Earth. I am also the more earnestly moved to this great and wonderful Undertaking, because it is revealed to me by the same wonderful Prophetick Skill, that such great and terrible Things, such surprizing Events, and such Dissolutions, are preparing in the World, and shall come to pass this ensuing Year, as were never seen by the Eyes of any Living, or would enter into the Conceptions of any Man to foretell, had they not by an extraordinary acquired Skill in knowing and determining such Things, been foreseen by me Isaac Bickerstaff, *Esq*; Sen.

And thus, honest Reader, being nothing doubting of thy diligent Attention to what I shall Prophesie, I bid thee Farewell.

The

The British *Visions*; *or*, Isaac Bickerstaff's *Twelve Prophesies for the Year* 1711.

PROPHECY I.

I Shall begin my Years of Wonders as the Course of Nature begins it; Councils and Confederacies act all the Courts and Princes of *Europe*, and the time of Year is only for such Things; but as here the Seeds of *B*lood are sown, the plentiful Crop that is to follow, derives from and is produced by the private Combinations of Men and Devils to disturb the World.

Three Scenes of Council shall this Month discover themselves in the World, what the *P*roduction or Effects shall be of either of them, I shall farther lay open in my next; these are Councils in this Nation, Councils of *France*, Councils of *Mahomet*.

The Councils of this Nation shall produce great Strife, Faction and *M*alecontent stirs, with *H*eats and Animosities among the several Parties that are among us, to the great Encouragement of our Enemies, and to the great Discouragement of good Men; yet the Calm-

ness and Prudence of some shall lessen, or at least protract the Danger for a while; Disputes of Ecclesiastick Affairs shall embroil this Island, and those *People* who regard neither God nor Devil shall make the greatest stir about Religion, every Church (however safe) cries out they are in danger, and the Debauchees of the Nation learn to play the Pharisee, and say to their Neighbour, *Stand off, I am holier than thou.*

Let *Europe* tremble at what is contriving now in the Cabinets of *Princes*, which, like the Seeds of *Distempers* in the *Body*, will quickly break out in Feavors, Fluxes, Cankers, Calentures, and all the Symbals of the Bodily Distempers of Men in the *Politicks* of Nations.

France consults now how to support *Spain*, embroil the Emperor, bring home the *Swede*, restore *Bavaria*, doze *Savoy*, fright the *Dutch*, and divide the *English*, and he will in some measure accomplish them all.

The *Turk* consults how to humble the *Muscovite*, subject the *Pole*, and keep fast the K. of *Sweden*; but the *Swede* will make a Cats Foot of the *Turk*, play him a slipery Trick, get out of his hands, and leave him to fight with the *Muscovites* and *Poles*, where the War shall be bloody, cruel, successful to neither side, and only useful to shew God's Judgments on both.

PRO-

PROPHECY II.

After Consultation comes Preparation, this takes up all *Europe*, with the Return of the Spring, every Nation struggles with themselves to make their Preparations for War formidable, and with one another to be first ready for the bloody Work they are about.

The Confederates attempt vigorously to succour King *Charles* in *Spain*, but, *O the Success!* --- *Spain* not yet ripe for Deliverance resists her Friends, embraces her Enemies, and struggle hard against what she believes she must at last submit to.

But this is not the Generation that must enjoy the Fruit of this Strife, the Chiefs fight for the Possession, neither part obtain it, both take their long Journey before the War is over, and the Game at Chess is left to *Posterity* to play it out. *Philip* goes first, I *Isaac Bickerstaff*, Elder, having the 2d sight, see the famous Mausoleum for the young Hero of *Bourbon* in the Escurial at *Madrid*, and there lies the hope of a Crown, yet the *French Monarch* with the same Obstinacy supports the War, maintains the *Breach*, and prompts the *Spaniards* still to defend themselves against their own Happiness. *Philip* before he dies fights three Battles with the Confederates, and is Victor in two of them, but dies in *May*, and leaves the War to be carried on with less Success than before; should it be left to the Merits of the *Persons*, *Philip* deserves the Crown

of *Spain*, far better than *Charles*, as he appear active, valiant, brave, and unwearied in the Face of his Enemies, however he dies King, and sleeps in peace, tho' he never reigned so.

Now the *Swedes* break out of *Pomeren*, and it appears that *France* and the *Swedes* are in a strict Confederacy, and they shall be more fatal to *Europe* than the League with the *Turks*.

The *Swedes* sending Forces from *Stockholm* carry the plague into *Pomerania*, from whence it spreads to the utmost Corners of *Europe*; Kings and Emperors shall flye from this dreadful Enemy, but find no Recess; Plague finds them out, and as War spreads, Pestilence goes hand in hand, and both shall consume and destroy without Mercy.

Europe is all busie in fitting out their Armies, the Drums beat in every Kingdom for Soldiers, not a Prince or State in this whole part of the World, but shall be embark'd in the Quarrels of *Europe*, and be engag'd in War either as Principal or as Auxilary.

The Armies of *France* and *Spain* are in the Field first, and much Blood shall be shed in *Spain* before the end of *February*. The Confederates struggle hard, but Things do not answer the Expence.

PROPHECY III.

The Preparations for War are finished, now the Troops on all sides appear in the Field; a third Battle in *Spain*. ——— *Philip*'s Forces

ces flie in their Turn, tho' no great Advantage made of the Victory. In *March* the *French* make two great Efforts upon the *Rhine*, one to join the *Swede*, who marches towards the *Elbe*, and the *French* towards *Saxony*; the other towards *Bavaria*, and the *Germans* in no readinefs to receive them, fuffer all manner of Mifchiefs.

The Dauphine of *France* dies; the *Pope* fickens, and is very weak, the Duke of *Savoy* relapfes; but the King of *France* more vigorous than ever, pufhes all before him the beginning of Summer.

A great *Prodigy* appears in the Eaft; 2 Kings ftruggling to make it appear which was the better Chriftian, he that changed his Religion to gain a Crown, or he that flies to *Mahomet* to recover his Crown. The *Turks* advance now in three great Armies, and one Battle is fought before the end of *March*, in which the King of *Sweden* gains fome ground, but is wounded in the Action, and makes no Advantage of the battle.

Now the miferable *Fate* of *Europe* approaches, the War begins in *Poland*, *Mufcovy*, *Hungary*, on the *Rhine*, and in *Spain*. In *Flanders* and *Savoy* they cannot be ready fo foon.

A great *Battle* on the Frontiers of *Portugal*, in which the *Portuguefe* do as they ufe to do, *viz.* run away; the *Spaniards* ravage *Portugal*, ruin three Provinces; if thefe were not *Portuguefe*, the *Spaniards* had not had the Victory; and if thefe were not *Spaniards*, the *Portuguefe* would be no more a Kingdom, but the lloth of the

Spani-

Spaniards ſaves *Portugal* till *England* relieve her.

A great Miniſter of State dies in the Month of *March*.

England feels great want of Trade, great want of Money, and great loſs of Credit, which puts her to many Inconveniencies; but let her prepare for worſe Things than theſe.

PROPHECY IV.

The Empire feels hard Things beſet on every ſide, and weak in Arms, as well as confuſed in Council, the *Swedes* and the *French* invade *Bavaria*; the *Hungarians* ſupported by the *Turks* recovers all they have loſt in *Hungary*; the *French* make a terrible Eruption over the *Rhine*; the Circles of *Swabia* and *Franconia* ſuffer incredible Evils, and *Blood*, Famine, and *Peſtilence*, rages over the Empire.

The Duke of *Bavaria* reſtored to his Dominions by the *French*, dies of the *Plague* in *April*, and the Affairs of that Electorate come to ſome Settlement by the ſucceeding of his Son, who has other Things to mind than War. The Elector of *Cologn*, Brother to the *Bavarian*, goes to ſee his *Brother* reinſtated, but lives not to return to his own Principality.

The Emperor retreats from *Vienna* for fear of the *Turks* and *Hungarians*, and goes to *Prague*, but the Plague gets into *Bohemia*, and ſeparates the Imperial Court; ſome great Princes die of that Diſtemper alſo.

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In the Month of *April* a great City in *Flanders* beſieged by the *French*, but the Confederates coming on, they raiſe their Siege; they are made amends by ſurprizing another ſtrong Town in the middle of the Day. A bloody Action in *Flanders* between part of the Armies, in which the *French* ſeem to have the Advantage, but decline coming to a deciſive Battle, and draw off from the Field. *D*eath in this Battle puts an end to the Ambition of two or three great *M*en on either ſide. *Boufflers* lies now in the *B*ed of *H*onour, and his Grace ——ſhall bear him Company into the other World, ſo he that was envy'd before ſhall be pittied now for want of a Rival.

In the ſame *April* King *Philip*'s Forces bombard *Barcelona*, but Relief comes to King *Charles*, and in his turn he chaſes them; now the Face of Things change in *Spain*, and *Philip*'s Fate approaches.

The *Danes* now prepare to invade *Schonen*, and make another fruitleſs Attempt upon the King of *Sweden*'s Countries, from whence they are again beaten, and bring back Poverty and the Plague, which not only viſits their Capital City, but makes ſad havock in their Court, not excepting the Royal *F*amily.

The King of *P——a* demits his Crown in favour of his Son, and ſubmits to go the way of all Princes. This Year is fatal to Crown'd Heads.

PRO

PROPHECY V.

Now *Europe* begins to Tremble, the People find an Employment different from the War, the Living having Work enough to Bury their Dead.

By the End of *May* the Various kinds of this new Plague has Touch'd most parts of Europe. The *Swedes* as before bring it to *Pomerenu*, thence they carry it to *Saxony* (*Via Brandenburgh*) the *Saxons* give it to the *Bohemians*, the *Bohemians* to the *Bavarians*, they to the *Grisons*, and they again to the *Swiss*.

The *Hungarians* bring it another way from *Poland*, and carrying it into *Croatia*; it Crosses the *Adriatick* to *Italy*, and siezes upon the *Venetian*; from thence it pushes into *Milan*, and visiting *Turin*, it passes thro' *Rome* to the Kingdom of *Naples*, and in spight of the interruption of Commerce by the War, crosses over into *Sicily*.

Innumerable Numbers of People shall perish by this desolating Distemper; yet the World, as if the Hand of Heaven did not, or could not destroy them fast enough, shall make War, and the Kings of the Earth apply themselves to their ruinous Design, with as much fury as ever.

The King of *Sweden* now appears in his own Colours, and shall in the Month of *May* be in full march to enter *Poland*, if not *Germany*; but his Army consisting of many Nations, new raised and undisciplin'd, wasts away without much Fighting, and he may see that Heaven

does

does not bless his Ambitious Designs with success answerable to his Expectations: Three of his greatest Generals, and in whom was his chief Confidence, die of the Plague; and tho' he gains some advantage, he can make no great use of it, his power being lessened by the other Accidents of War.

The *Turks* and the *Muscovite*, 150000 Men of a side, draw towards one another, but the Decisive Stroke is not yet, many bloody Skirmishes happen between the *Tartars* and the *Cossacks* against the *Muscovite*.

The Month of *May* lays King *Philip* low in *Spain*, and *Charles* Triumphs over his Enemy a third time, but his Joy, like all Temporal things, is but of a small duration. The War in *Spain* costs much Money, much Blood, much Counsel, but does not fully answer our end: Many a brave *English* Man leaves his Bones in that Country, whose Blood might have been better spent.

Another Bloody Action between the Armies on the side of *Germany*, on which much blood is lost, and both sides give GOD praise for being beaten.

This Year is a Year rather of Blood than of Victory, no *Bleinhim*, no *Pultowa*: No Decisive Battle happens any where on this side *Hungary*, yet more Men killed than would be in many such Battles.

PRO-

PROPHECY VI.

As the hot Weather comes on, Men's Blood grows warm, this ſubjects and expoſes them to fatal miſchiefs, the plague of War and the War of plague. *Italy* and *Germany* have by this time felt the fury of the Contagion, and dreadful Ravages have been made in all the populous Nations on that ſide.

Shall *Britain* be free! flatter not your ſelves with Epectations of it, many Plagues viſit this Nation, and whole parties of Men ſuffer the Infection; all ſorts of Men ſhall die, ſome politickly, ſome really; the Grave makes no Diſtinction of *Whig* or *Tory*, High or Low *Church*. Three Biſhops go off the Stage firſt, Dukes, Earls, Barons and Privy-Counſellors follow; a great Rot falls among the Court-Sheep, and the Murrain upon the Stallions of this *Sodomitiſh* City. The Infection ſpares none: But alas, for the Sheepherd of our Flocks! they fly and leave their Flocks to be ſcatter'd.

But let them remember it from *Iſaac Bickerſtaff*'s Words, the Sheepherds that forſake the Sheep committed to their Charge, ſhall fall in their flight, when thoſe that ſtay ſhall remain. In this general Deſolation it is not difficult for me to Name you Perſons by Titles and Sirnames that ſhall be infected with Plagues of one ſort and another, whoſe Eyes ſhall not ſee the end of theſe things, but the Number is too great, and you cannot bear the diſtinction of Perſons at this time.

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Let it be ſufficient then to tell you, Your Deſolation is beyond expreſſion, and the Number, whoſe Carkaſſes ſhall fall in this Wilderneſs, is not to be Number'd.

Yet for the encouragement and ſupport of the Poor, Heaven promiſes plenty in the Fields and there ſhall be no want of Bread, Food ſhall encreaſe, tho' not the Mouths that feed on it, and what the Sword or other Plagues ſhall devour ſhall leave room for thoſe that remain to Live with more abundance.

Yet for all theſe Terrors, Men ſhall not repent or abate their Diviſions, their Animoſities, their Wars, and purſuit of Blood over the Earth.

About this time a terrible and bloody Battle happens between the *Swedes* and the *French* againſt the *Germans*, and much blood-ſhed, but the Emperor's Affairs are not yet ripe for Deliverance; and he muſt be a ſecond time ſaved by the Proteſtant Allies, or be loſt for good and all. The *French* now Maſter ſeveral Towns and large Territories, and if ever *Bavaria* is reſtor'd, it's now.

But ſtrange Reſiſtance is preparing againſt thoſe miſchiefs, tho' no affect is ſeen this Year, the next will produce ſome thing more effectual.

PROPHECY VII.

Now the World ripe for Action, is altogether by the Ears, and blood rages in all parts of *Europe*; *France* has gone on with too much ſucceſs, but receives a check, vomits up much

of

of his rapid Conquests, and by the vigour of the Confederate, is made to doubt whether he can keep his own or no, yet he stoops not to make offers of Peace, but swells with Pride and Revenge. *Germany* seems to be a general Scene of blood, and finds it next to impossible to avoid falling into the War with the *Turks*; the *Swedes* and *French* insult her in their Turn, and make three large Incisions into her most tender parts.

Sweden grows great, War and Dissaffection, together with want of Money and Strength, distresses the *Pole*, yet they Fight with Obstinacy against all: The *Muscovite* pushes the *Turk* in his Turn, and revives things on that side: But this Year decides not the Fate of *Poland*. The Protestant Interest gains nothing by this cruel War, either in *Germany*, *Silesia* and *Hungaria*, yet hopes and promises to support them, and they despair not yet.

Spain lies still; now the Sun keeps the Peace there, the excessive heats gives a recess from Action, and gives time to our ungovernable Soldiers to kill themselves with Eating ripe Grapes, Drinking new Wine, and gorging themselves with the Luscious Fruits of a Luxurious Climate. A new General and new Councils praduce new effects there, but the Army suffers much by diseases, for which we supply the Grave with new Recruits for the *Autum* Campaign.

A rich plentiful Harvest in *Britain* makes the Hearts of the Country glad, and *Britain* proves this Year the Granary of *Europe*, a great en-

creaſe, and a good Market, revives our Commerce, but we want this relief, for we have many Loſſes abroad and dreadful Diſeaſes at home affecting the bodies or minds of the People.

PROPHECY VIII.

Among the ſeveral Armies that range *Europe*, none eſcape a moſt bloody Action but theſe in *Flanders*. The *Swedes*, the *Poles*, the *Muſcovites*, the *Turks*, the *Germans* make War, not after the new but the old faſhion, and Fight as it were by mutual conſent whereever they meet; ſo that every Poſt now brings News of Battles, and Slaughter: About *Auguſt* the *Turks* and *Muſcovites* Fight a terrible Battle, Victory mocks both ſides, and both ſides mock the World with their pretences to it, yet the *Turks* appear ſooner in the Field again, and ſeem to feel the loſs leaſt, tho' they have moſt Men in the Roll of Slaughter

If the real Plague ſpreads near us, it is the ſame Month, GOD preſerve our populous Towns from ſuch a ſtroke, the Deſolation of, *Dantzick*, where yet they tell us a Fifth part of the People periſh'd, will be a Flea-bite to what we muſt ſuffer, but the Prophet tells you, *If you eſcape this Year, you ſhould not flatter your ſelves about the next.*

Germany may expect a bloody Campaign, if the *Swedes* are beaten in *Poland*, for if that Monarch finds his Work hard on that ſide he encreaſes his Strength for diverſion on another:

Denmark seems this Year to borrow the old Character of the *Muscovites*, neither fit for War or Peace, for they make nothing of their Attempts any where, and are beaten every where.

A fruitless War upon the *Alps*, where Men Fight with Mountains, and Rocks are frighted with Snow and Torrents of Water, struggle hard with Nature and Art, and go home with little or nothing.

PROPHECY IX.

Spain moves again about *September*, and the Armies, tho' weakened by Fluxes and Feavers, draw out. Now! if at all *Charles*'s Affairs revive, yet the *French* struggle hard, and part with what they lose but by Inches. Two bloody Actions weaken both sides, and they take breath a while, but *Charles* gains Ground, tho' with great loss of Men.

France supplies *Spain* with Men, *Spain France* with Money. Great Advantages arrive from the Supplies, both receive from the West *Indian* Treasures, and great Losses befall some People the latter end of the Summer by Sea, to the Discouragement of Trade, and Ruin of the Merchants.

Another terrible Battle in the Northern Countries; the *Muscovite* grows strong by being beaten, and the *Swede* weak by Victory. The *Turk* makes great Havock in *Europe*, and ravages great part of *Poland*. *Hungary* begins to stir, and the Emperor feels the Effects of suffering

fering his Neighbours to grow too powerful, but is to weak too do any thing considerable, having Enemies on every side.

France ends the Campaign Inglorious on every side, and tho' he has not so much loss this year, as he has formerly met with, yet finds himself languish under the Expence, his Kingdom wasting, exhausted and gasping, and makes Overtures of a Treaty, but it comes to nothing for want of Sincerity.

PROPHECY X.

The Flux of Blood abates the Season about *October*, enclins the Parties out of breath with a long Campaign to draw off, and give over in *Dauphine*; the *Germans* dare not stay to act on this side the *Alps*, or the *French* on the other for fear of being cut off from their Retreat by the Snow on the Mountains; so they end the Campaign first, mutual Loss, mutual Mischief, and having mutually done nothing worth Notice.

The *Swedes* push still on fighting against Elements as well as Enemies with invincible Obstinacy, and resolves to Winter in the heart of *Poland*, a Country wasted by War, and more likely to starve the Armies in their Quarters than refresh them.

Cold Weather freezes up the Plague, and the Desolations of that kind abate; but let them not comfort themselves with the Notion of a Deliverance from it, because of an Intermission.

The

The Armies on the *Rhine* and in *Flanders* separate, and may cast up their Accounts if they please; they find on every side Loss and Decay of Strength, much Blood, much Treasure spent, many Nations ravaged and ruined, and the end of the Campaign looks still but like the beginning of the War, yet *Spain* has no Recess, but both sides prepare for a Winter War; here we begin to see a new Turn, and King *Charles* may bid fair for a third Visit to *Madrid*, yet he keeps not all he gains; and Treaty rather than Battle seems to be the end of that War at last.

PROPHECY XI.

The Generals now come home, make their Report, exalt the Merits of their own Actions, emulate and decry one another, and the Unfortunate bear the Load of ill Conduct, according to the Custom and Usage of Mankind.

The active part of the War being quite over they stand still, and take Breath awhile, till the Winter Quarters being settled, the great Ones come to lay their Heads together for the next Year.

Some farther Abortive Conceptions of Peace appear in the World, amuse the Parties a while, and then vanish again; yet on the one side of *Europe* a formal Treaty begins, is carried on with Cunning and Insincerity on both sides, and ends in renewing the War.

Spain is still the Seat of Action, we gain Ground, but lose a world of Men, and some

Relief

Relief miſcarry; which Diſappointment retards the Proceedings, and baulks a very hopeful Proſpect, yet they puſh hard, and have hopes of ſucceſs; a great Province revolts and changes Hands, which gives a new Turn to Things, but want of Strength delays finiſhing the Work this Year, and before that Defect is ſupply'd, ſome Ground is loſt again.

PROPHECY XII.

Now the World enters into Council, Parliaments, Aſſemblies of Eſtates, Regencies, Divans, Grand Councils of War, meeting of Generals and Mareſchals, take up all the Nations of *Europe*; nothing of Peace is heard among them, but *carrying on the War with vigour* is the Word, Taxes for raiſing Money, and Money for raiſing Men, filling of Magazines, refitting of Navies, and recruiting Armies is the Language of all this part of the World.

Would the great Men of *Europe* bring all their Accounts together, would they they caſt up their Accounts, and bring the Ballance of the whole to one foot of Profit and Loſs, the Madneſs of Mankind would appear monſtrous, and be ſeen in its own Colours. A Million of Lives have been loſt this Year by War, Peſtilence and Famine. Vaſt Treaſures exhauſted beyond the poſſibility of Account, Countries waſted, Cities ruined, Villages burnt, Frontiers plundred, yet the Nations of *Europe* prepare to carry on the furious Quarrel, as if nothing but the Deſtruction of Mankind was in

their

their Design. In *Spain* the War goes on still, and Winter gives no Recess. A warm Action concludes the Year, in which both sides suffer loss. The Confederates have the Advantage; yet no great Gain is made of the Matter. The War is push'd on with great Animosity and Indefatigable Vigour of the Commanders with great Loss of Blood on both sides; but this Year gives no View of the End.

The CONCLUSION.

Thus have I, *Bickerstaff* the Aged, given you a View of this fatal Year that is yet to come, the *S*um of the Matter lies in a few Heads.

France gains at first by exerting her self with uncommon Vigor, but loses again both her Glory and her Advantages before the end of the Campaign.

Britain is at a vast Expence, rather gains than loses, but not suitable to her Occasion any more than to her Expectation.

The *Muscovite* suffers vast Losses, yet gains Ground.

The *Swedes* gets Victory with little Profit.

The *Turk* makes great Spoil with very little gain.

The *Poles* have some Advantages, by which they are ruined.

The Empire is delivered from Peace.

The *Dane* by want of Success delivered from the War.

On

On every ſide *Europe* is afflicted, plagued harraſſed and ravaged by the War, and yet ſees no end of her Sorrows: What ſhall befall her in the Year to come, ſhall be alſo foretold in its Seaſon by me,

Iſaac Bickerſtaff.

FINIS.